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MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION

CYCLE SAFETY INFO

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STATE MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR LICENSING - 1990

This is the fourteenth annual cycle safety information sheet reporting state procedures for licensing motorcyclists. The information is the result of a survey sent to licensing authorities in the nation's 51 licensing jurisdictions.

Licensing practices vary from state to state. In the past few years, these practices have become more standardized as states began adopting the Motorcycle Operator Skill Test (MOST), the *Motorcycle Operator Manual (MOM)*, the *Motorcycle Operator Manual (MOM)* Knowledge Test, and Sharing the Road With Motorcycles information.

A growing number of states are adopting new motorcycle operator licensing programs each year. The Foundation's licensing department provides technical assistance and examiner training for states adopting the MOST, the Alternate MOST, the MIT, or the MLST.

The Motorcycle Operator Manual (MOM)

In addition to the skill test, a manual is available for motorcycle operators. The *Motorcycle Operator Manual (MOM)* includes information on proper protective gear, handling different road surfaces and reacting to emergencies. License applicants in a study group increased their knowledge 15 percent by reading the manual. MSF provides free printer's negatives on a loan basis to states adopting the manual.

The Motorcycle Knowledge Test

The Motorcycle Knowledge Test was developed from the contents of the *Motorcycle Operator Manual*. Using multiple choice questions and line drawings, the test emphasizes areas critical to safe riding. MSF will provide a set of tests & slides for duplication to states using automated testing machines.

The Motorcycle Skill Test Practice Guide

The Practice Guide is designed to provide motorcycle license applicants with a series of exercises that they can practice in a parking lot before they take their skills test. These exercises are not meant to replace a rider education course but simply to provide practice on necessary skills before testing. MSF provides free printer's negatives on a loan basis for states that would like to provide this booklet to motorcycle applicants.

The Sharing The Road With Motorcycles Information

Studies have shown that most motorcycle accidents are caused by drivers of other vehicles. MSF has developed information for state driver's manuals titled *Sharing The Road With Motorcycles*. It gives other drivers information on conditions and situations commonly faced by motorcyclists.

The Motorcycle Operator Skill Test (MOST)

Nearly three years of research resulted in the development of a new motorcycle operator testing procedure. Research shows the test works. In comparison with an existing state test, the Motorcycle Operator Skill Test (MOST) showed a 15 percent reduction in accidents. When coupled with a rider training program, accidents were reduced 21 percent.

The MOST contains nine exercises that test the skills riders need to operate safely in traffic. Since the test only requires an area 50 x 125 feet, it can be set up in a parking lot. The MOST has been proven to be effective. Some states, however, do not have enough space available to adopt the MOST. The Alternate MOST was developed specifically for these areas. It includes modified portions of important exercises in the MOST along with other basic control exercises.

The Alternate Motorcycle Operator Skill Test (Alternate MOST)

The Alternate MOST was developed specifically for those areas with limited space available and employs the use of manual timing equipment. It includes seven exercises that test basic skills in an off-street setting.

The Motorcyclist Licensing Skill Test (MLST)

The MLST is the most recently developed off-street test drawing on lessons learned from tests that had come before it. This test combines administrative practicality with test reliability and rider safety. Applicants are required to complete a series of three exercises in such a manner as to allow examiners to evaluate riding performance objectively.

The Motorcyclist In-Traffic Test (MIT)

The MOST and Alternate MOST are designed for off-street testing. Several states do not have off-street testing facilities or prefer to administer an in-traffic test. The MIT consists of 21 test situations considered to be most important for the safe operation of a motorcycle in traffic. The applicant is scored by an examiner following the motorcycle in another vehicle.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's purpose is improving the safety of motorcyclists on the nation's streets and highways. To seek reduction of motorcycle accidents and injuries, the Foundation has programs in rider education, licensing improvement, public information and statistics. These programs address both motorcyclists and motorists. A national, nonprofit organization, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) is sponsored by the U.S. distributors of Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki and BMW motorcycles.

1990

STATE	TYPE OF SKILL TEST	MOM ADOPTION	MOM KNOWLEDGE TEST	WAIVER FOR RIDER EDUCATION	NUMBER OF MOTOR-CYCLE TESTING SITES	NUMBER OF DRIVER LICENSE EXAMINERS	NUMBER OF LICENSED DRIVERS (as of 6/30/89)	NUMBER OF LICENSED MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS (as of 6/30/89)	NUMBER OF MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATIONS	TYPE OF VEHICLE REGISTERED AS MOTORCYCLE
Alabama	None	Yes	No	N	73	96	2,765,516	4,492	52,715	F,G,H,I,J
Alaska	MOST/Alternate	Yes	No	N	32	36	372,419	N/A	12,461	D,F,G,I
Arizona	MOST/Alternate/MLST	Yes	Yes	N	15	200	2,375,763	129,000	76,091	A,D,E,F,H,K
Arkansas	Alternate	No	No	N	40[2]	24	1,704,461	62,221	16,586	C,E
California	Lollipop	Yes	Yes	N	202	472	19,290,136	845,881	664,819	A,C,D,E,F,H,I,J,K,M
Colorado	Alternate/MIT	Yes	Yes	S	88	154	2,761,035	336,000	115,629	C,D,E,F,H,J,M,N
Connecticut	MOST/Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	11	60	2,411,248	169,168	59,331	F,J
Delaware	Alternate	Yes	No	K,S	4	30	427,172	30,669	7,768	F,G
Dist. of Columbia	Alternate	No	No	N	1	9	386,081	8,251	1,911	C,D,E,F,G,J
Florida	MOST/Alternate	Yes	Yes	K,S	77	956	10,648,019	395,639	203,913	C,D,E,F,H,J,K
Georgia	MLST	Yes	Yes	N	33	200	4,470,768	185,653	75,341	A,B,C,D,E,F,H,I,J
Hawaii	Alternate	No	No	N	13	55	834,880	20,176	11,544	C,D,E,F,I,J,M
Idaho	None	No	No	N/A	N/A	44	707,561	N/A	38,282	F,G,J
Illinois	Alternate	Yes	Yes	S	104	487	7.2 million	544,496	243,789	C,D,E,F,G,H
Indiana	Alternate	No	No	S	38	97	4,593,352	218,792	99,745	F,G*
Iowa	Alternate	Yes	Yes	S	143	42	2,000,000	251,374	145,967	C,D,E,F,I
Kansas	Alternate	Yes	Yes	K,S	111	156	1,706,123	229,301	64,724	A,B,C,D,E,F,M
Kentucky	Off-Street/On-Street	No	No	N	120	105	2,390,137	75,147	32,054	D,F,H
Louisiana	Off-Street	Yes	No	S	80	540	2,636,929	68,534	56,080	C,F,G,I,J
Maine	MIT	No	No	K	25	35	900,000	32,000	35,876	C,D,E,F,J
Maryland	Alternate	Yes	No	N	23	120	3.5 million	184,229	51,358	C,D,E,F,M
Massachusetts	Off-Street	No	No	N	37	142	4.2 million	242,400	59,000	A,D,F,H,I,J
Michigan	Alternate	Yes	No	S	73	1,200	6,397,604	379,958	150,000	C,D,E,F,H,J
Minnesota	Alternate	Yes	No	N	99	110	3,063,159	293,347	128,956	C,D,E,F,(G,H)[1],K,M
Mississippi	MIT	Yes	Yes	N	85	47	2,029,442	UNK	18,411	C,D,E,F,G,J,M
Missouri	Alternate	Yes	No	N	125	151	3,292,723	268,162	81,123	D,E,F,J
Montana	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	60	28	585,000	29,000	24,294	A,B,C,D,E,F,G,I,J
Nebraska	Alternate/MIT	Yes	Yes	S	95	62	1,300,000	41,623	29,088	C,D,E,F,H
Nevada	MOST/Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	31	22	772,152	39,833	17,649	A,C,D,E,F,I,J,M
New Hamphsire	Alternate	No	No	S	15	24	809,398	72,189	30,410	C,D,E,F
New Jersey	Off-Street/On-Street	Yes	No	N	37	75	5,300,000	244,000	77,734	C,D,E,F,H,I,J,M,N
New Mexico	MOST/Alternate	Yes	Yes	K,S	25	20	1,075,782	60,000	35,421	C,D,E,F,J
New York	Off-Street	Yes	No	N	97	150	10,094,192	460,185	201,265	F
North Carolina	Off-Street	No	No	N	189	367	4,421,934	233,657	59,991	D,E,F,H,I,J
North Dakota	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	56	32	431,366	36,614	23,978	D,E,F,G
Ohio	Off-Street	Yes	No	N	94	180	7,369,824	570,416	243,885	C,D,F,M
Oklahoma	MIT	No	No	N	94	60	2.1 million	UNK	64,056	C,F,G,J
Oregon	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	46	125	2,217,096	211,160	71,538	C,D,E,F,I,J
Pennsylvania	Off-Street	Yes	No	K,S	83	101	7,746,698	454,238	174,790	F,J
Rhode Island	Alternate	No	No	K,S	3	15	500,000	30,000	32,626	F,G,H,I,J
South Carolina	Off-Street	No	Yes	N	60	120	2,329,823	63,286	33,426	A,D,F,H,I,J
South Dakota	MOST/Alternate	Yes	No	K,S	88	45	520,000	N/A	31,421	F,J
Tennessee	MLST/On-Street	Yes	No	S	104	200	3,970,998	195,000	114,071	C,D,F,G
Texas	Texas In-Traffic	Yes	No	N	345	331	11,647,750	2,592	206,497	A,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,M
Utah	MOST/MLST	Yes	Yes	N	16	42	1.1 million	60,000	28,900	D,E,F,G,H,I,J,N
Vermont	Alternate	No	No	N	9	14	423,215	46,293	17,436	D,E,F,H,I,J
Virginia	Alternate	Yes	Yes	S	7	193	4,129,510	211,827	66,327	F,H
Washington	Alternate	Yes	Yes	N	57	283	3,126,210	270,896	112,228	D,F
West Virginia	None	No	No	N/A	N/A	70	1.3 million	N/A	26,511	F,G,J
Wisconsin	MIT	Yes	Yes	N	125	200	3,340,498	304,525	167,055	F
Wyoming	Off-Street	Yes	Yes	N	34	85	348,948	38,428	20,050	B,C,D,F,H,I,J

* Exceptions to the rule
1. Some sites
2. 28 of these are circuit sites

Vehicles Registered as Motorcycles

A - 3-wheel all-terrain vehicle
B - All-terrain with more than 3 wheels
C - 3-wheel service vehicle (cushman type)
D - Modified 3-wheel (straddle seat)
E - Modified 3-wheel (bench seat)
F - Motorcycle with side car
G - Mopeds
H - No peds (small displacement 2-wheel)
I - Minibikes
J - Motorbikes
K - Golf Carts
L - Snowmobiles
M - 3-wheels with rear axle tread with under 25".
N - Golf Carts, if no more than 3 wheels

Part of Motorcycle Test Waived for Rider Course Graduates

P - Partial
N - None
K - Knowledge
S - Skill

MOST - Motorcycle Operator Skill Test
Alternate - Alternate MOST
MIT - Motorcyclist In-Traffic Test
Alternate MIT
MLST - Motorcyclist Licensing Skill Test

STATE MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR LICENSING PROCEDURES

1990

STATE	SPECIAL LICENSE OR ENDORSEMENT CODE	DURATION OF LICENSE	LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED TO HOLD PERMIT	LENGTH OF TIME PERMIT IS VALID	MINIMUM AGE FOR A M/C LICENSE WITHOUT DRIVER EDUCATION	MINIMUM AGE FOR A M/C LICENSE WITH DRIVER EDUCATION	RIDER EDUCATION PREREQUISITE TO LICENSING	SKILL TEST ADMINISTERED ON APPOINTMENT (APPT) OR WALK-IN (WI) BASIS
Alabama	MDC,C	4	No	N/A	14/16	N/A	No	N/A
Alaska	B1	5	No	2 years	16	16	No	APPT/WI
Arizona	Class M	3	No	6 months	16	N/A	No	WI
Arkansas	M,MD	2-4	No	N/A	16	16	No	WI
California	M,Class 4[1]	4	No	1 year	18	16	Under 18	APPT
Colorado	M	5	90 days	180 days	16	16	No	APPT/WI
Connecticut	104,105,106,107,10S	4	No	60 days	16	16	No	APPT
Delaware	MC	4-5	10 days	60 days	18	16	Under 18	WI
Dist. of Columbia	6,7	4	No	60 days	16	16	No	WI
Florida	W,T,MTCY	4-6	No	90 days	15	15	Under 21	APPT
Georgia	Class M	4	No	6 months	16	16	No	WI
Hawaii	2	2-4[3]	No	90 days	15	15	No	APPT/WI
Idaho	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois	M,L	4	No	1 year	18	16	Ages 16-17	WI
Indiana	OP,CH,PPCH,MC	3-4	30 days	1 year	16	16	No	WI
Iowa	8	2-4[3]	No	2 years	18	16	Ages 14-18	APPT
Kansas	D	4	No	6 months	14	14	No	WI
Kentucky	M	4	30 days	6 months	16	16	No	APPT
Louisiana	7	5	No	N/A	15	15	No	WI
Maine	I,D	4	No	1 year	21	16	Ages 16-20	APPT
Maryland	E	4	14 days	180 days	18	16	Under 18	WI
Massachusetts	M	4	No	1 year	17	16-1/2	No	APPT
Michigan	CY	4	30 days	150 days	14	16	Ages 16-17	APPT
Minnesota	C-1,B-3	4	No	45 days	18	16	Ages 16-17	APPT/WI
Mississippi	E	4	No	60 days	15	15	No	WI
Missouri	M,Y	3	No	60 days	16	16	No	WI
Montana	M	4	No	6 months	16	15	No	APPT
Nebraska	B	4	No	1 year	16	16	No	APPT
Nevada	Class 4	4	No	8 months	16	16	No	APPT/WI
New Hamphsire	MC	4	No	30 days	18	16	No	APPT
New Jersey	E,F	4	20 days	90 days	17	17	No	APPT
New Mexico	3,4	4	No	6 months	13,14	15	No	APPT/WI
New York	Class 7	4	No	1 year	16	16	No	APPT
North Carolina	MT CYCLE	4	N/A	N/A	18	16	No	APPT/WI
North Dakota	M	4	2 months	6 months	16	14	Ages 14-15	APPT
Ohio	5	4	None	6 months	18	16	Under 18	APPT
Oklahoma	None	N/A	30 days	No limit	14[2]	14[2]	No	APPT/WI
Oregon	M-1,M-2	4	No	1 year	16	16	Ages 16-18	APPT/WI
Pennsylvania	Class 5	4	No	120 days	16	16	No	WI
Rhode Island	H	No limit	30 days	90 days	18	16	Yes	APPT
South Carolina	Class 4	4	15 days	6 months	16	16	No	APPT/WI
South Dakota	Class 2,3	4	No	N/A	14	14	No	WI
Tennessee	Class M	4	No	1 year	16	16	No	WI
Texas	Class M	4	No		18	15	Ages 15-17	WI
Utah	41-2-103,104,110	4	No	6 months	N/A	16	No	WI
Vermont	1M,1A,1B	3	No	60 days	18	16	No	APPT
Virginia	Class C	3/7	No	N/A	18	15	No	WI
Washington	1,2 or 3	4	No	90 days	18	16	Under 18	APPT
West Virginia	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	N/A
Wisconsin	CIP,PCY,RCY	No limit	10 days	6 months	18	16	No	APPT/WI
Wyoming	M	4	No	1 year	16	16	No	WI

* - Exceptions to the rule
1 - Issued prior to 1/1/89
2 - Restricted to 125cc or less, helmet usage under 18 years of age.
3 - Valid 2 years if between 15-24 or 65 and over; Valid 4 years if 25-64 years old.

PERMIT HOLDERS

1990

STATE	NUMBER OF TIMES LEARNER'S PERMIT CAN BE RENEWED	REQUIREMENTS TO RENEW LEARNER'S PERMIT	COST OF MOTORCYCLE LICENSE/ENDORSEMENT	RESTRICTIONS ON LEARNER'S PERMIT
Alabama	N/A	N/A	$15.00	N/A
Alaska	No limit	F,V	$10.00	4
Arizona	No limit	F	$ 7.00	N/A
Arkansas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
California	No limit	F,V,W	$10.00	1,2,3
Colorado	No limit	F,V,W [17]	$15.00	11
Connecticut	One	F	$23.00-38.00	1,2,3,8
Delaware	One	F	$ 5.00	1,2,3,5,7
Dist. of Columbia	Two	F	$12.00	1,5,8
Florida	5	UNK	$ 4.00	1
Georgia	No limit	F,V	$ 4.50	1,2,3,18
Hawaii	No limit	F,V,S	$1.00-5.00	1,2
Idaho	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois	No limit	F,V,W	$10.00	2,10
Indiana	No limit	F,V,W	$1.50-3.00	1,2,5
Iowa	No limit	F,V	$ 1.00/yr.	12
Kansas	No limit	F,V,W	$ 9.00	12
Kentucky	No limit	F	$ 2.00	None
Louisiana	N/A	N/A	$ 8.60	N/A
Maine	No limit	F,V,W	$10.00	1,2,5
Maryland	Zero	F,V,W	$22.00	11
Massachusetts	No limit	F,V,W	$12.00*	1,2,9
Michigan	No limit	F,V,W	$ 7.50	1,2,12
Minnesota	One	F	$ 7.50	1,2,3,5
Mississippi	No limit	F	$ 5.00	23
Missouri	Three	F	No fee [18]	1,2
Montana	One	F	$ 2.00	5,12
Nebraska	No limit	F,V	No fee	12
Nevada	No limit	F,V,W	$ 5.00	1,2,3,11
New Hamphsire	Two	F	$35.00	1,2
New Jersey	No limit	F	$ 2.00	20
New Mexico	One	F,V	$10.00	1,2
New York	No limit	F,V,W	No fee	1,12
North Carolina	N/A	N/A	No fee [22]	N/A
North Dakota	One	F	$ 8.00	1,2
Ohio	No limit	F,V,W	$ 7.50	1,2,3,5
Oklahoma	No limit	F	N/A	11
Oregon	Zero	N/A	$30.00	1,2,5,11
Pennsylvania	No limit	F	$ 8.00	1,2,12*
Rhode Island	Every 90 days [24]	F	$20.00	2,10
South Carolina	One	F,V,W[21]	$12.00	1,2
South Dakota	N/A	N/A	$ 6.00	N/A
Tennessee	Zero	F,V,W	$15.00	1,2,3,13,14
Texas	One	F,V	$16.00	12
Utah	No limit	F,V,W	$ 8.00	1,2,3
Vermont	No limit	F	No fee	1,2,8
Virginia	N/A	N/A	$ 1.00/yr.	N/A
Washington	One	F	$ 7.50	1,2,3,10
West Virginia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	No limit	F	$ 4.00	2,5,7
Wyoming	No limit	F,V,W,S	$10.00	1

F - Pay Fee
V - Vision Test
W - Written Test
S - Skill Test

1 - No passengers
2 - Daylight only
3 - Restricted roadways
4 - In visual sight of 19 year old motorcycle licensed for 1 year
5 - Helmet usage
6 - Cycle size limitations
7 - Eye protection
8 - In-state only
9 - Under 18
10 - Must have a 1, 3 or 5 year licensed rider accompany
11 - Must be in visual sight of 21 year old with motorcycle license.
12 - In visual sight of a licensed motorcycle operator.
13 - Limited to a 20 mile radius from home.
14 - Maximum engine size 650cc
15 - Corrective lens (if needed)
16 - Permits issued at the age of 15, must be 16 to get a motorcycle license.
17 - If permit is expired.
18 - All safety equipment required by law.
19 - If not on initial license duplication fee charged.
20 - Applicant accompanied by New Jersey licensed operator.
21 - If applicant has more than 5 pts within preceding 2 years.
22 - Unless added after initial license $5.00.
23 - Motorcycle only
24 - With copy of certificate of course completion
* - Exceptions to the rule

This information was assembled by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation licensing department. Licensing authorities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia were directly contacted by MSF for an update on the information listed in this chart.
Although this information was obtained from the most authoritative sources available as of July 1989, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation is not responsible for its accuracy or completeness.

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